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1 June 1961

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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THE WEEK IN BRIEF

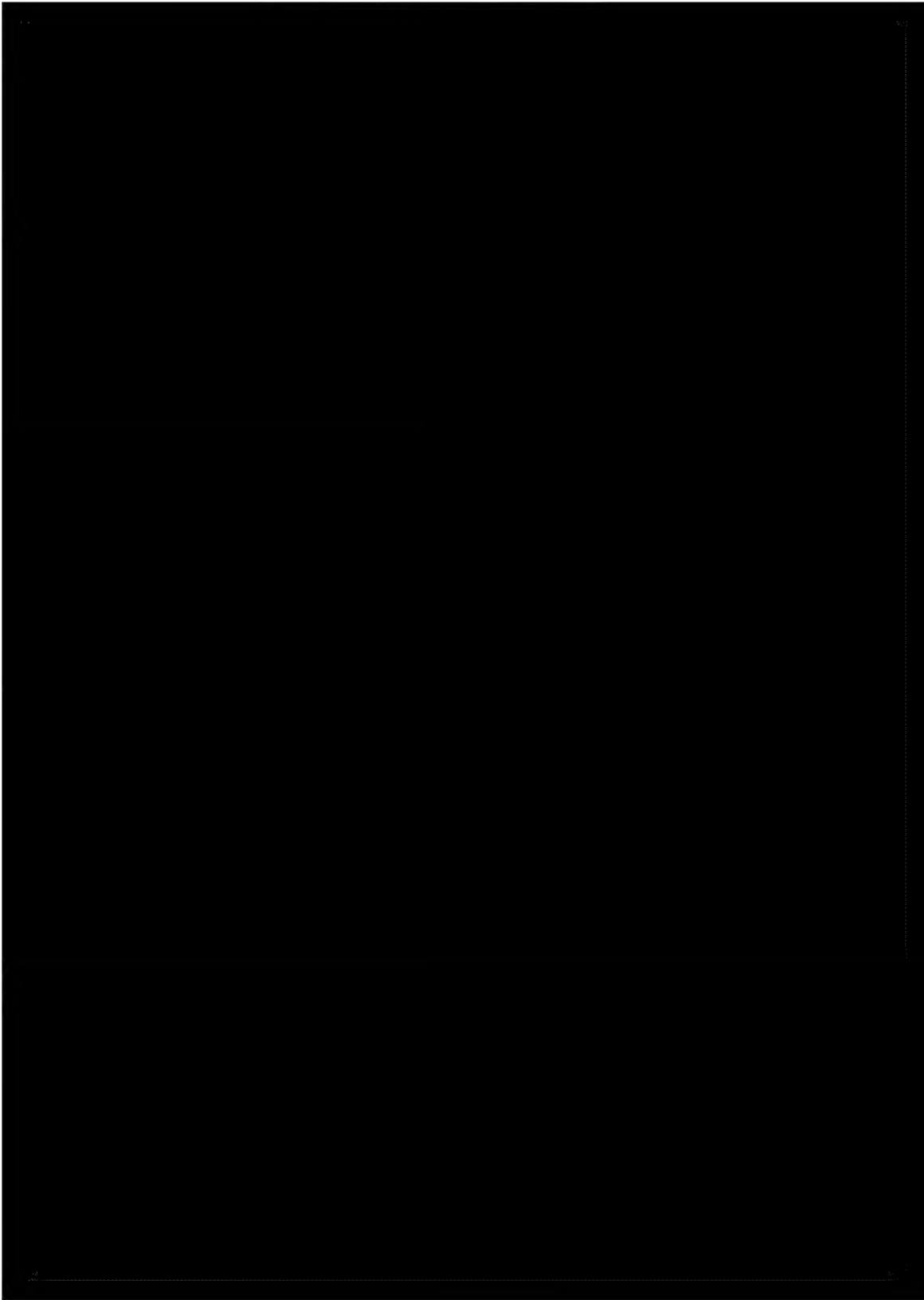
SOUTH KOREA

The South Korean military leaders seem to envisage an extended period of military rule. The ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction is drafting a basic law--in effect revising the constitution--in order to provide a legal basis for ruling by fiat. All social and political organizations are being brought under control of the regime, and direct military control of the government is being extended down through the county level. There are continuing factional differences within the council. The regime appears to have little popular support and may turn increasingly to repressive measures to stay in power.

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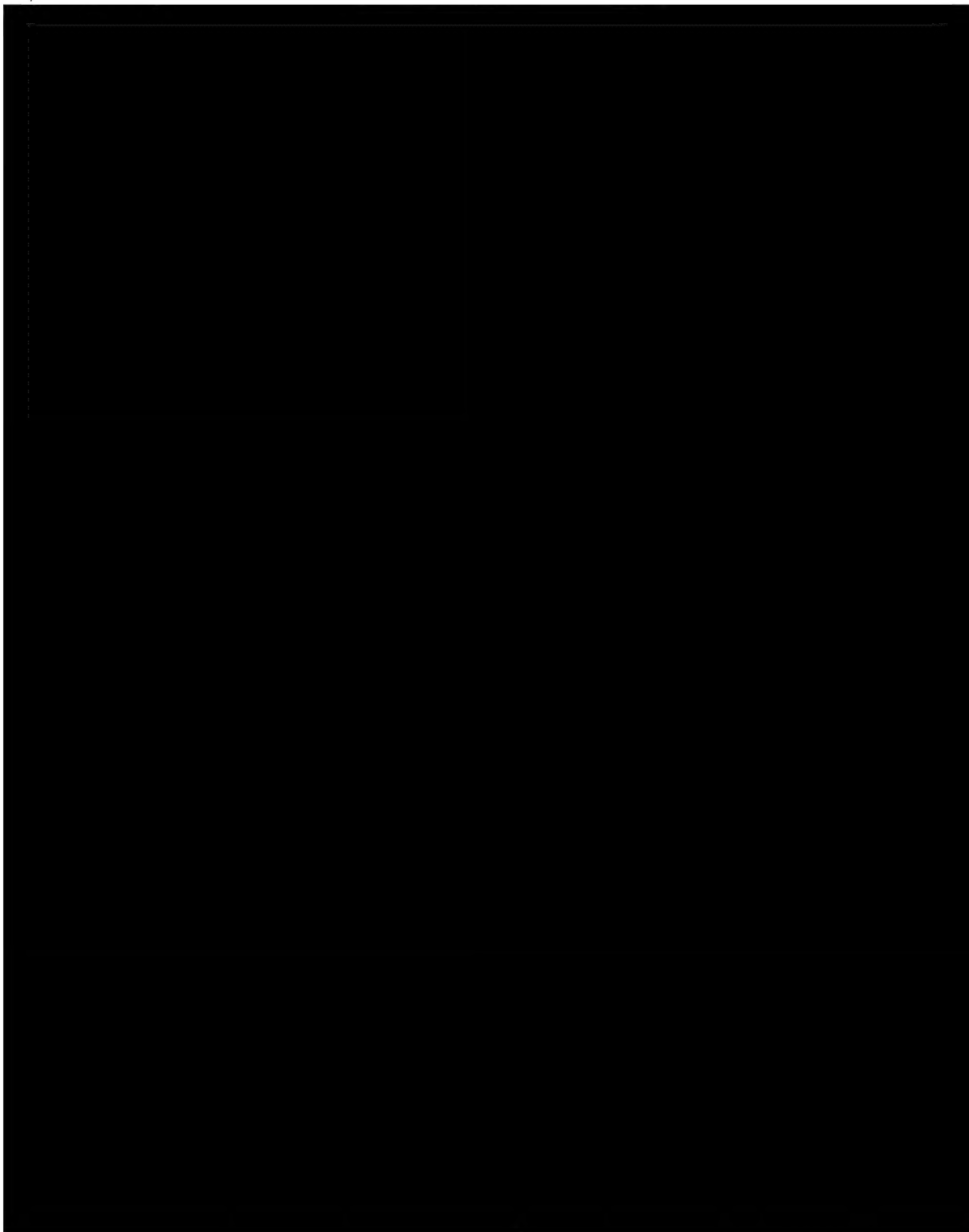
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SOUTH KOREA

South Korea's revolutionary leaders are providing increasing evidence that they envision an extended period of military rule. The regime is moving to bring all social and political organizations under its control and appears to be moving toward a controlled economy. Brigadier General Kim Yun-kun, commander of the marine unit which participated in the coup and a member of the ruling Supreme Council for National Construction, has stated that the junta intends to develop a group of young civilian leaders to whom it will give control of the government "possibly after two years."

Factional differences within the junta leadership are much in evidence, and lines of command between moderate senior officers and their more rash juniors are becoming increasingly uncertain. Tension between Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Chang To-yong and coup strongman Maj. Gen. Pak Chong-hui may be approaching a climax, with the ouster of one or the other from the ruling junta reported possible before the end of the month. Chang is credited with being a moderating influence on the insurgent leadership and is believed to favor a relatively early return to civilian government.

The clique of young colonels surrounding Pak favor prolonged military rule. The Supreme Council has been expanded and reorganized to provide them with greater representation. As a group, the colonels are extremely nationalistic and eager to undertake extensive reforms but they lack positive plans or administrative training. Should the regime fail to win public

support, these junior officers probably will push for increasingly repressive measures against any opposition.

Foreign Minister Kim Hong-il informed [REDACTED] on 27 May that the regime was drafting a "provisional" constitution to "legalize" the transfer of power to the Supreme Council. The "provisional" constitution--which may be dignified by a popular referendum--is intended to provide a legal basis for the extraconstitutional actions of the regime while preserving the appearance of continuity of government. The military leaders fear that unless such continuity is maintained--the Rhee government was recognized by the UN resolutions of 1950 and 1951--Seoul's claim to be the only legitimate Korean government will appear no more valid than that of Pyongyang.

Generals and one admiral have been appointed governors of all provinces and mayor of Seoul. The regime is seeking some 500 field officers to staff national and local government administrative posts down to and including the county level. Former Lieutenant General Kang Mun-poing--a follower of the proposed ambassador to the United States, retired General Chong Il-kwon--has been ordered to organize an extreme right-wing veterans' group to support the revolutionary government.

Twelve leading businessmen accused of accumulating "illegal fortunes" have been arrested, possibly a public economic and social discontent. According to the chief of national security, the coup has restored police morale,

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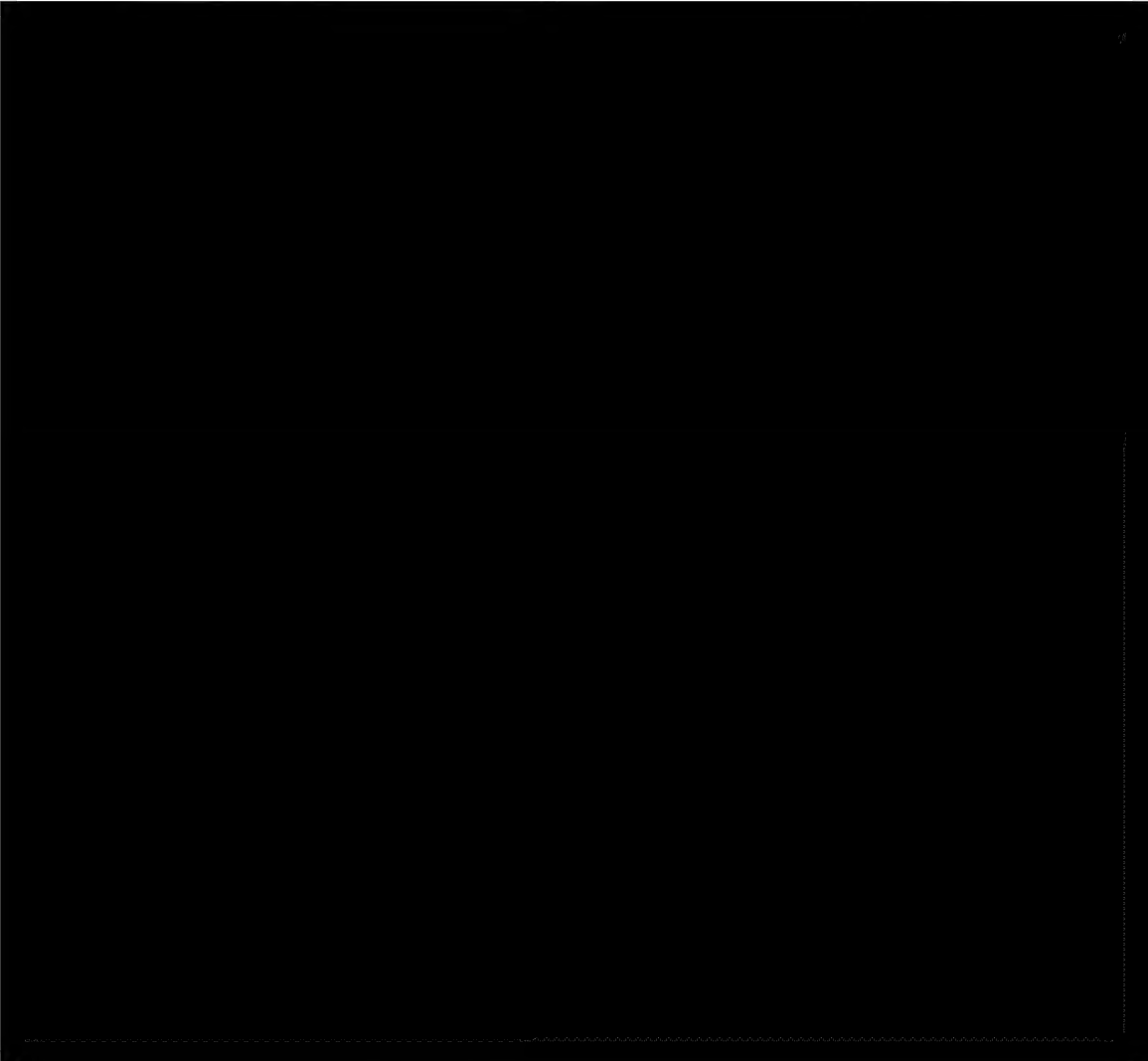
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shattered by the fall of the Rhee government last year. The police can now concentrate on their normal law-enforcement duties, since military intelligence organs are largely taking over the investigation of domestic political activities.

Public reaction to the new regime continues to be largely passive, with known opponents reluctant to speak up for fear of possible repression. Students, who toppled the Rhee government in 1960, appear to be about

evenly divided for and against the coup. Many have been impressed by the speed and efficiency of the military in moving to clean up government corruption and other obvious manifestations of bureaucratic inefficiency. Some, however, are becoming increasingly concerned over limitations placed on academic freedom. Should repressions continue, student elements may be moved to take bolder action calling for a return to civilian government.



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